

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FTC-01

JUSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /098 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6745

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EINV, BDIS, ENRG, BL

SUBJ: GULF OIL

REF: LA PAZ 3547

1. CARLOS DORADO'S SECRETARY, CECILIA GUZMAN,
CALLED ON ADCM MORNING OF MAY 22 TO STATE
THAT SHE HAD PERSONALLY DELIVERED LETTER TO
PRES BANZER FROM B.R. DORSEY. UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION OF LETTER IS PROVIDED IN PARA 2.

2. QUOTE EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVIAN REPUBLIC
GENERAL HUGO BANZER SUAREZ
PALACE OF THE GOVERNMENT
LA PAZ, BOLIVIA

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT OUR EMPLOYEE

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IN BOLIVIA, CARLOS DORADO CHOPITEA, IS IN JAIL AS A RESULT

OF CRIMINAL CHARGES FORMUALTED BY DR. ROLANDO SIMBRON VELASCO, PROSECURITNG DISTRICT ATTORNEY. THIS IS A MATTER OF THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CONCERN TO US BECUASE MR. DORADO IS TOTALLY INNOCENT OF ANY INFRACTION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PENAL CODE OF BOLIVIA MENTIONED IN THIS CASE.

AS GULF HAS PUBLICLY AFFIRMED, MR. DORADO HAD NO PARTICIPATION WHATSOEVER IN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF GULF IN RELATION TO YOUR COUNTRY. BE ASSURED THAT THIS AFFIRMATION IS TRUE.

MR. DORADO, ALTHOUGH HE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF GULF, DOES NOT OFFICIALLY REPRESENT THE GULF OIL CORPORATION OR ANY SUBSIDIARY OF GULF AND DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORIZATION TO ACT IN THE NAME OF ANY GULF COMPANY. YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS I AFFIRMED IN MY LETTER OF MAY 14, I ASSURE YOU THAT THE DETAILS ABOUT THESE CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE FULLY PRESENTED TO YOU AS SOON AS THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS OF GULF OR OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSIONS SUPPLY TO US THE CONCRETE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CLARIFY THESE MATTERS. I SINCERELY ASK YOU MR. PRESIDENT, THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE COMPLETE INNOCENCE OF MR. DORADO AND IN THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE, OF WHICH YOU ARE AN ARDENT DEVOTEE, THAT YOU CONSIDER THIS REQUEST FOR HIS LIBERTY.

I TAKE THIS OCCASION, YOUR EXCELLENCY, TO REITERATE THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

B.R. DORSEY UNQUOTE

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GULF STILL HAS NOT ARRANGED FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION HERE, WHICH RAISES THE DANGER THAT THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY MAY SIMPLY HAVE AN "EDICT" PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS CALLING FOR MR. DORSEY'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE LA PAZ COURT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHOULD MR. DORSEY THEN NOT APPEAR, THE JUDGE MIGHT FIND MR. DORSEY IN RBELLION (REBELDE EN CONTUMAS) WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, COULD ALLOW THE COURT TO PROCEED ENTIRELY WITHOUT ANY TESTIMONY FROM MR. DORESY, AND ARRIVE AT A FINDING OF GUILTY.

4. DR. LUIS SOUX, WHO FORMERLY REPRESENTED GULF IN LEGAL MATTERS IN BOLIVIA, IS IN CONTACT WITH GULF AND HAS ARRANGED FOR TWO CRIMINAL LAWYERS, JOSE BACIGALUPO AND OSCAR GUTIERREZ,

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TO REPRESENT CARLOS DORADO. ACCORDING TO SOUX, THESE LAWYERS WILL PRESENT TO THE COURT A REQUEST FOR DORADO'S PROVISIONAL LIBERTY THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 22, ALONG WITH A SECOND DOCUMENT WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL MAKE A CASE THAT NONE OF THE CHARGES MENTIONED BY THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY APPLIES TO CARLOS DORADO. SOUX EXPECTS THAT DORADO WILL BE GRANTED PROVISIONAL LIBERTY, AS ANYONE OVER SIXTY YEARS OF AGE IS ENTITLED BY LAW TO SUCH LIBERTY. BUT HE ALSO EXPECT A VERY HIGH BAIL (FIANZA)

TO BE SET. SOUX APPEARS TO BE QUITE CONCERNED THAT GULF MAY
NOT PROVIDE THE BAIL.

5. COMMENT: IF GULF DOES NOT PROVIDE BAIL FOR DORADO, WE WOULD
EXPECT SENTIMENT IN BOLIVIA TO TURN EVEN MORE DECIDEDLY AGAINST
GULF AND THAT INCREASED ATTENTION (SEE LA PAZ 3573) WILL BE
GIVEN TO SUSPENDING INDEMNIFICATION
PAYMENTS.

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